

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 /149 W  
----- 095962

R 111254Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6304  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, IS

SUBJECT: SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP

1. DURING OFF-RECORD DISCUSSION AT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES DECEMBER 10, BRITISH CABINET OFFICE OFFICIAL SPOKE OF LONG MEETING HE HAD HAD WITH HIGH SOVIET INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW DURING FONSEC DOUGLAS-HOME'S RECENT VISIT THERE. HE SAID OFFICIALS SPOKE OF GREAT DIFFICULTY THEY HAD IN GETTING RELIABLE INFORMATION OF ANY KIND ON ISRAEL, IN ABSENCE OF SOVIET EMBASSY THERE. THIS SEEMED TO INDICATE TO BRITISH OFFICIAL A DESIRE AT LEAST IN SOME SOVIET OFFICIAL CIRCLES FOR RESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL AT EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE.

2. BRITISH PROFESSOR BERNARD LEWIS, WHO WAS VISITING ISRAEL ABOUT SAME TIME, SPOKE OF MEETING (HIS FIRST) WITH MENACHEM BEGIN, THE OPPOSITION LIKUD-HERUT LEADER. BEGIN REPORTEDLY TOOK LINE DISCOUNTING SOVIET THREAT DURING RECENT WAR AND POST WAR PERIOD. HE HAD ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER ANYONE COULD REALLY BELIEVE SOVIETS WERE PREPARED "TO INVADE ISRAEL WITH SEVEN DIVISIONS". LEWIS REMARKED THIS WAS HIS FIRST EXPERIENCE OF SUCH

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SILLY HYPERBOLE. HE SAID BEGIN CONTINUED TO RELY FOR

ISRAEL'S FUTURE SECURITY ON TIME-HONORED ISRAELI MILITARY  
STRENGTH, DISCOUNTING PROSPECTS FOR PEACE SETTLEMENT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT, FOREIGN RELATIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 11 DEC 1973  
**Decapton Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** mcintyresh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP  
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**Type:** TE  
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